amar chitra katha

No. 99

RAJ SINGH

AN ADAPTATION OF BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY'S FAMOUS BENGALI NOVEL

Novels by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya, although written about a hundred years ago, are still admired all over India, and, as such, need little introduction. Many of his novels have been translated into Hindi, Urdu, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and other regional languages of India. It is said that Ramakrishna Paramahamsa liked his novels so much that he had them read out to him. "Vande Mataram", the song which inspired and sustained the brave patriots who fought for our independence, was from one of his historical novels—*Ananda Math*.

In *Raj Singh*, the historical novel from which our Amar Chitra Katha has been adapted, he has tried to be true to the historical characters and incidents which he has depicted. The incidents involving the princess of Roop Nagar are found in Tod's "Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan—Volume I"

One day, a portrait-vendor visits the palace of our heroine, Chanchal Kumari, and tries to sell her a portrait of Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor. The princess flings the portrait on the floor and steps on it. The news is carried to Aurangzeb. The events that follow make Raj Singh one of the most interesting stories in our series.

Amar Chitra Katha is a continuing series.
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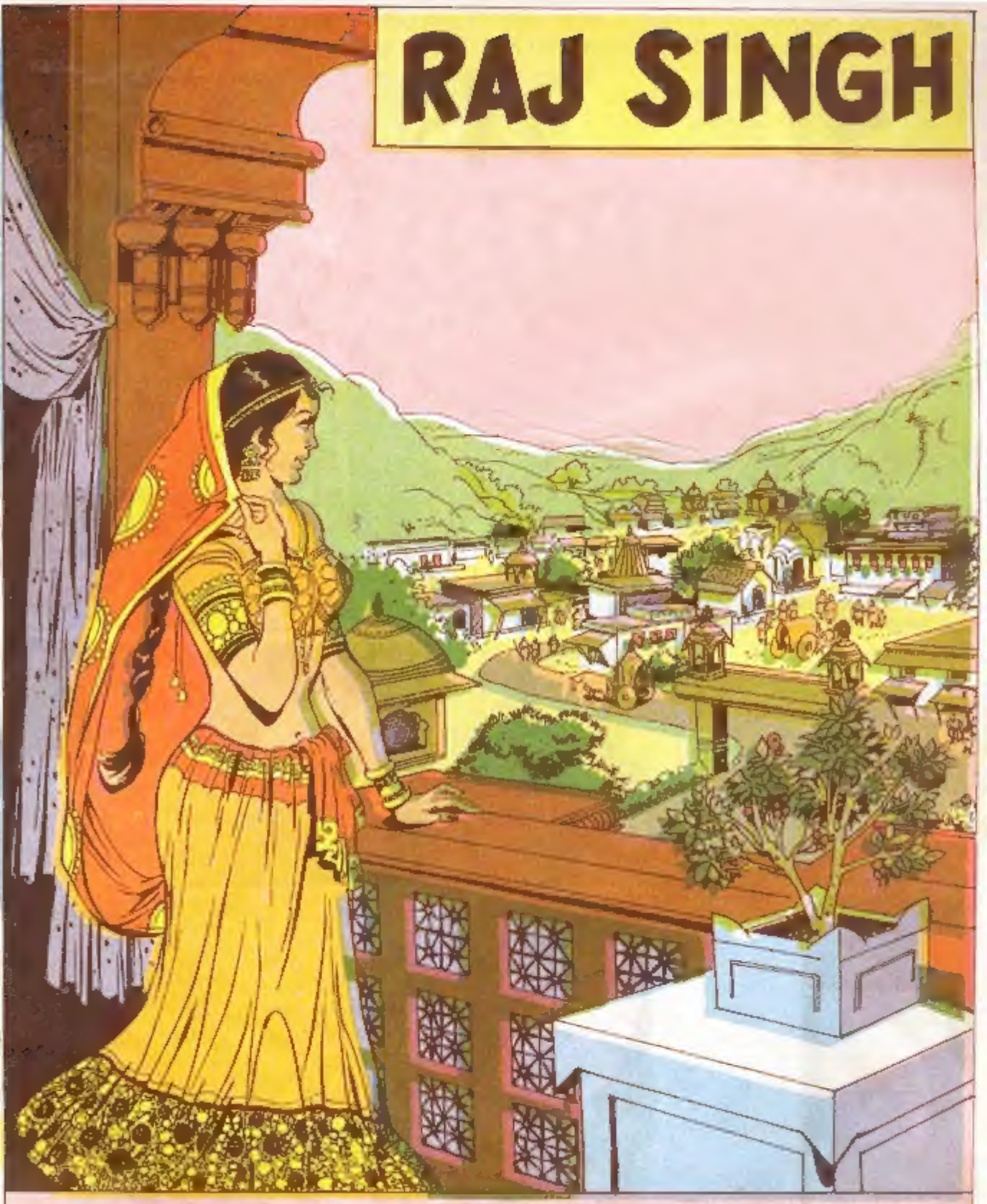
RAJ SINGH



WHEN AURANGZEB WAS THE EMPEROR OF INDIA, THERE WAS A SMALL STATE IN THE HILLY REGIONS OF RAJASTHAN, KNOWN AS ROOPNAGAR — THE BEAUTIFUL CITY. MORE BEAUTIFUL, HOWEVER, WAS ITS PRINCESS, CHANCHAL KUMARI.

ONE DAY, CHANCHAL KUMARI AND HER COMPANION, NIRMAL KUMARI, WERE BUYING PORTRAITS FROM AN OLD WOMAN DEALER.

THE MUGHAL ROYALTIES ARE OUR IN-LAWS.* WE HAVE DOZENS OF THESE.

SHOW US SOME OF HINDU KINGS.

I'VE ONLY ONE—RANA RAJ SINGH'S. BUT HE IS AN ENEMY OF ROOPNAGAR.

HOW CHIVALROUS HE LOOKS! ENEMY OR NO ENEMY, I'LL KEEP THIS PORTRAIT.

HAVE A LOOK AT THIS ONE. IT'S THE BADSHAH ALAMGIR.** PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE IT TOO.

YES. I'LL TAKE IT.

* MANY MUGHAL EMPERORS HAD BEGUMS FROM RAJPUT ROYAL FAMILIES

** ANOTHER NAME FOR AURANGZEB

JUST TO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF CRUSHING IT UNDER MY FOOT.

CHANCHAL!

BUT CHANCHAL KUMARI WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE HER FUN.

THERE! I HOPE THAT ONE DAY AURANGZEB HIMSELF IS CRUSHED LIKE THIS.

CHANCHAL! THIS IS SUICIDAL.

YOU HAVE ENDANGERED THE KINGDOM.

ROOPNAGAR WILL BE IN DANGER ONLY IF THE BADSHAH HEARS ABOUT THIS.

NIRMAL WAS A RESOURCEFUL GIRL. AS THE OLD WOMAN WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE —

TAKE THIS. AND LET NO ONE HEAR OF THE INCIDENT.

YOU CAN TRUST ME. I AM YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.

AFTER SEEING THE OLD WOMAN OFF, A RELIEVED NIRMAL RETURNED TO CHANCHAL.

I, TOO, CAN NOW TAKE THE INCIDENT LIGHTLY.

CHANCHAL, I HAD HOPED TO MARRY THE BADSHAH. BUT YOU HAVE ALREADY TORN HIS HEART TO PIECES AND SPOILT MY CHANCES.

I'M GLAD. I THINK RAJ SINGH IS THE ONLY MAN ANY WOMAN SHOULD WANT TO MARRY.

THE OLD WOMAN, MEANWHILE, HAD NO INTENTION OF KEEPING HER PROMISE. WHEN SHE REACHED DELHI, SHE PROMPTLY SOLD THE NEWS TO DARIA BIBI, WHO PAID HER A TIDY SUM FOR IT.

ARE YOU SURE CHANCHAL SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO SEE THE BAD-SHAH CRUSHED UNDERFOOT?

THOSE WERE HER VERY WORDS, MADAM!

AS SOON AS THE OLD WOMAN LEFT, DARIA SET OUT FOR THE PALACE TO MEET AURANGZEB'S DAUGHTER, ZEB-UN-NISA.

I SHALL DEFINITELY BE WELL REWARDED FOR THIS NEWS.

OUTSIDE ZEB-UN-NISA'S CHAMBERS, DARIA SAW MUBARAK KHAN, WHO HAD ONCE BEEN HER HUSBAND.

I SEE! SO MUBARAK STILL VISITS ZEB-UN-NISA. I'LL WAIT HERE TILL HE COMES OUT.

AFTER A WHILE, MUBARAK CAME OUT.

HE DOES NOT SEEM VERY HAPPY! PERHAPS HE MIGHT YET COME BACK TO ME.

HAS THE SHAHZADI * AGREED TO MARRY YOU?

HOW DOES IT CONCERN YOU? I AM NO LONGER YOUR HUSBAND.

* PRINCESS.

LATER, WHEN DARIA STOOD BEFORE ZEB-UN-NISA —
OH, DARIA! HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS DOG I'VE MADE?
HE LOOKS LIKE MUBARAK KHAN SAHAB.
THAT FOOL WANTS TO MARRY ME. BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HE WAS MY HUSBAND.
HOLD YOUR TONGUE! I'LL HAVE YOU HANGED IF YOU REVEAL THAT TO ANYONE. ANYWAY WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
I HAVE SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING TO TELL YOU.
AND DARIA RELATED THE ROOPNAGAR INCIDENT TO ZEB-UN-NISA.

AN INDIGNANT ZEB-UN-NISA COULD HARDLY WAIT TO TELL HER FATHER ABOUT IT. WHEN SHE HAD FINISHED —

FATHER! LET THAT ARROGANT CREATURE WAIT ON MY MOTHER.

IT'S A GOOD IDEA! A JUST PUNISHMENT!

YES! THAT SHOULD HUMBLE HER. I WANT HER HERE AS MY MAID.

THE INFURIATED BADSHAH WENT TO JODHPURI BEGUM, HIS RAJPUT WIFE.

I AM BRINGING IN ANOTHER RAJPUT PRINCESS — CHANCHAL KUMARI OF ROOPNAGAR...

...TO WAIT ON UDIPURI BEGUM.

THE POOR GIRL! I MUST WARN HER.

* FAMOUS RAJPUT HEROES.

THAT VERY DAY, A MESSENGER LEFT ROOPNAGAR WITH CHANCHAL'S LETTER TO RAJ SINGH. ON THE WAY, HOWEVER, HE WAS ATTACKED BY DACOITS.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR BELONGINGS AND LET FATE TAKE CARE OF YOU.

MEANWHILE RAJ SINGH, WHO HAD COME TO HUNT IN THE FORESTS NEAR BY, HAD WANDERED AWAY FROM HIS MEN, TO THE TOP OF A HILL. WHAT HE SAW MADE HIM BRING HIS HORSE TO A HALT.

DACOITS! THEY ARE LOOTING THE POOR FELLOW.

HE THUNDERED DOWN THE HILL. BUT BY THE TIME HE REACHED THE SPOT, THE DACOITS HAD FLED. HE UNTIED THE MAN. THEN —

'M GOING AFTER THEM

BUT THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM!

WHAT OF IT? I AM A RAJPUT.

MEANWHILE, THE DACOITS HAD ENTERED A CAVE NEAR BY TO SHARE THEIR BOOTY.

NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS LETTER?

MANIKLAL CAN READ AND WRITE. LET HIM READ IT OUT.

MANIKLAL READ OUT THE LETTER. THEN –

LET'S GIVE IT TO THE RANA. HE WILL REWARD US.

FOOL. WE'RE DACOITS. HE'LL KILL US. LET'S SELL IT TO THE BADSHAH.

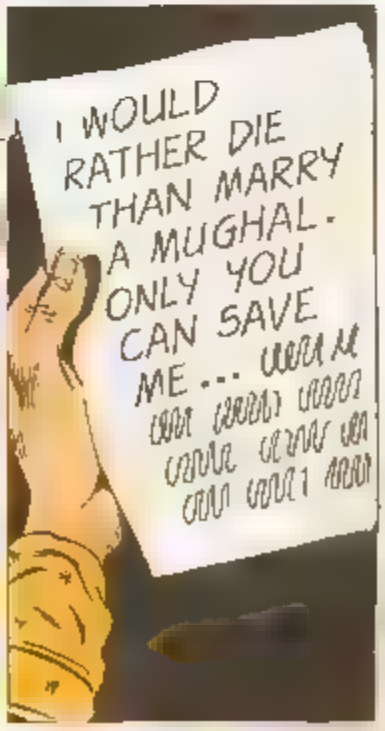
AT THAT MOMENT, RAJ SINGH ENTERED. WITHIN MINUTES HE KILLED BOTH OF THEM. WHILE HE TURNED TOWARDS MANIKLAL, THE FOURTH DACOIT RAN WAY.

RANA RAJ SINGH! SURRENDER OR DIE.

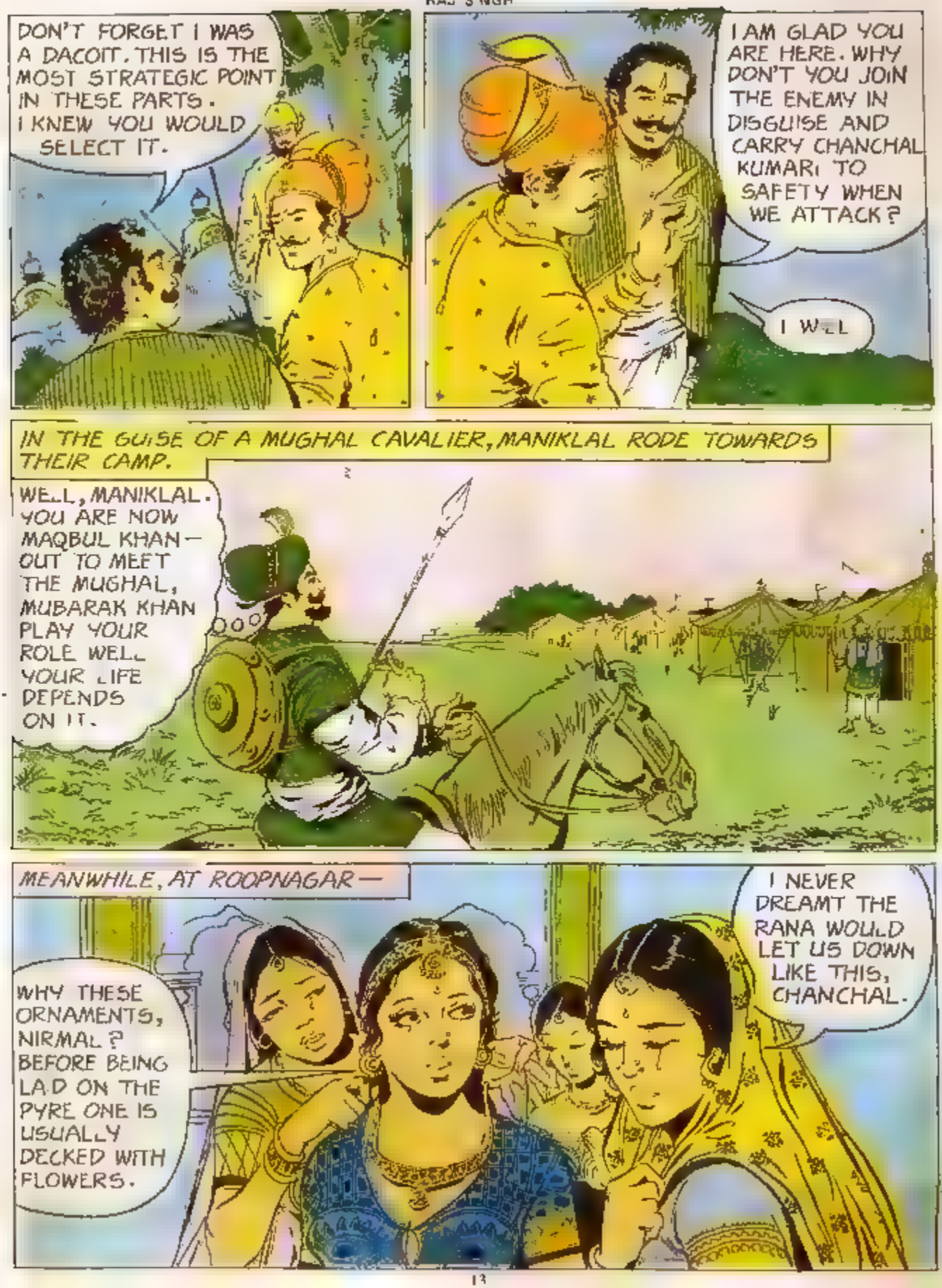
MERCY! MERCY!! AM YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT. I WILL GIVE UP DACOITY FOREVER.

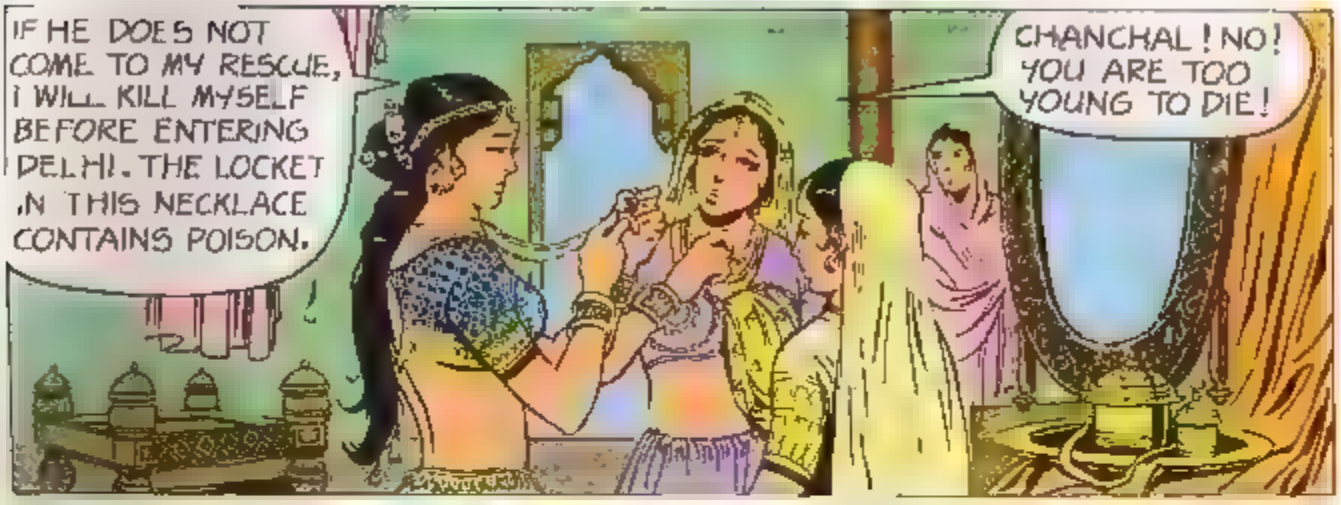
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU?
I AM A RAJPUT. THIS SHOULD PROVE MY SINCERITY.
MANIK CUT OFF A FINGER OF HIS LEFT HAND.

YOU ARE A TRUE RAJPUT INDEED! NOW LET ME HAVE THE LETTER.

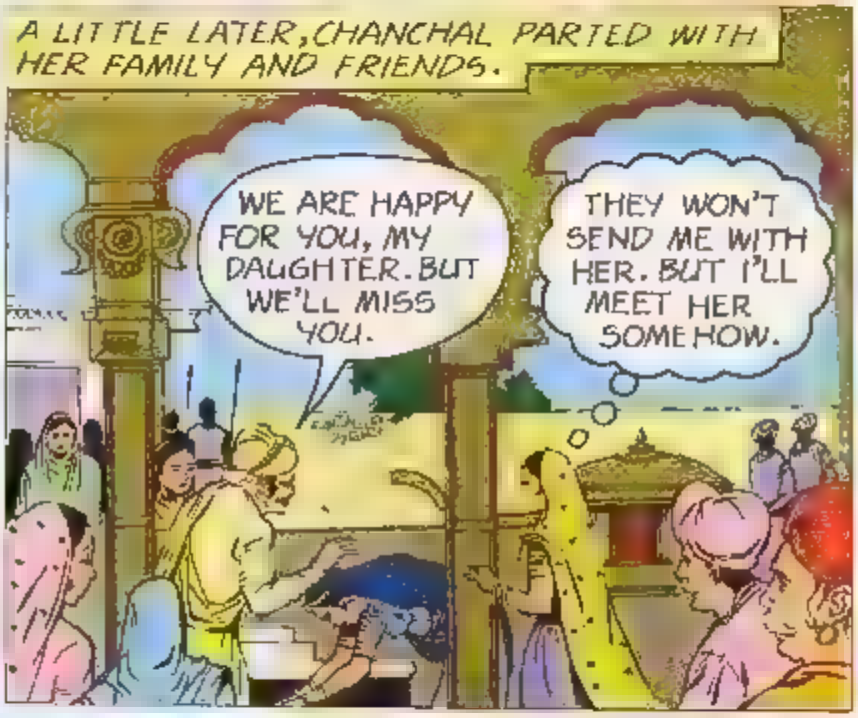

I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN MARRY A MUGHAL. ONLY YOU CAN SAVE ME...

I AM GOING TO ROOPNAGAR WITH THE FIFTY MEN I HAVE HERE. THERE IS NO TIME TO SEND FOR MY ARMY.
THE MUGHALS MUST HAVE REACHED ROOPNAGAR BY NOW. WE'LL HAVE TO AMBUSH THEM ON THEIR WAY BACK TO DELHI.
THE RANA WITH HIS FIFTY MEN WAITED ON TOP OF A HILL NEAR THE ROAD FROM ROOPNAGAR TO DELHI.
WHY CAN'T WE HAVE AN OPEN ENCOUNTER, RANA?
HOW CAN WE? SHE WROTE THAT TWO THOUSAND MUGHAL CAVALRYMEN WOULD BE ESCORTING HER
HOURS LATER
WE SAW THIS MAN COMING THIS WAY. HE MUST BE A SPY.
WHY, IT'S MANIKLAL! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT WE WERE AT THIS SPOT?

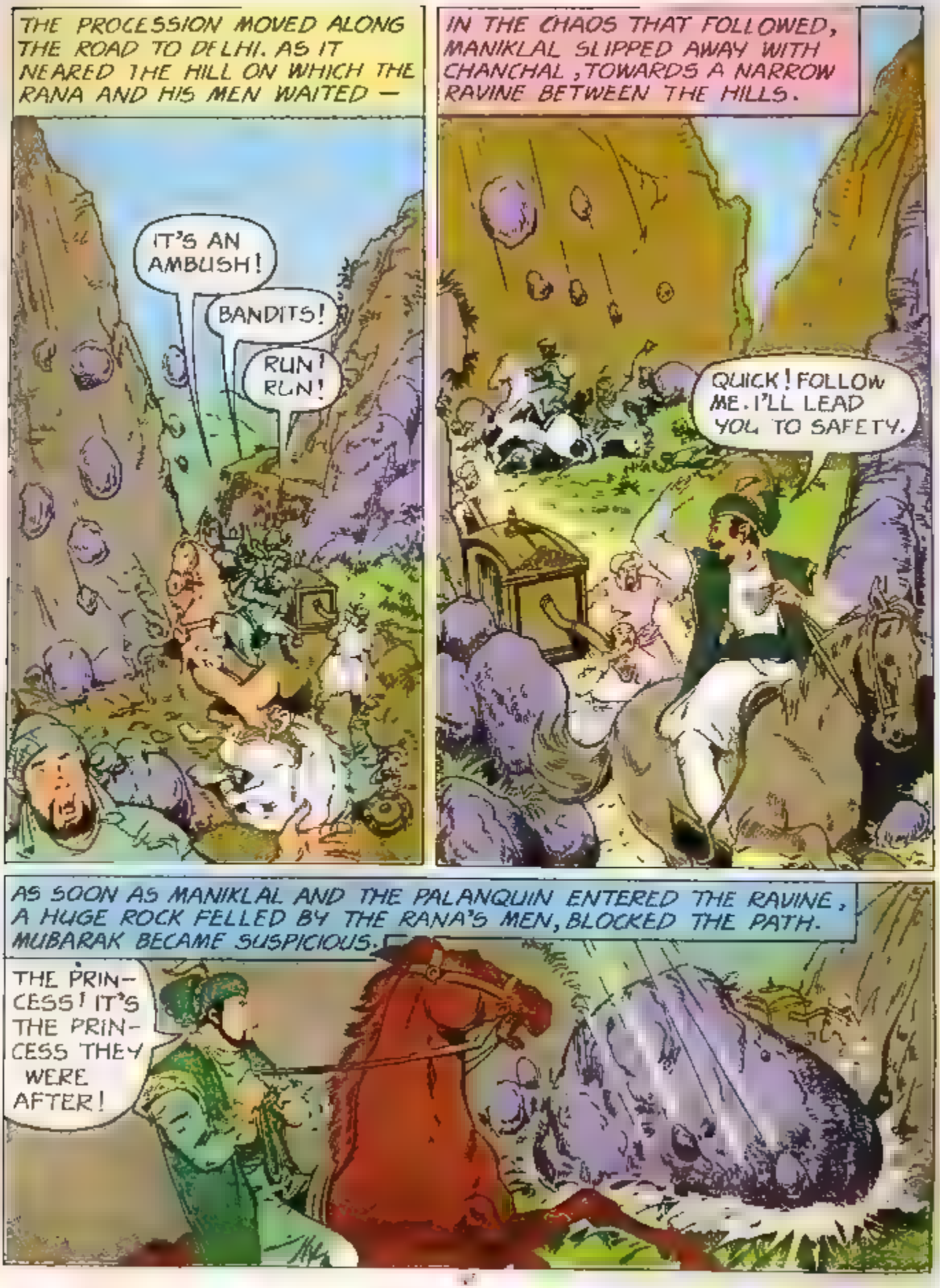

DON'T FORGET I WAS A DACOIT. THIS IS THE MOST STRATEGIC POINT IN THESE PARTS. I KNEW YOU WOULD SELECT IT.
I AM GLAD YOU ARE HERE. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN THE ENEMY IN DISGUISE AND CARRY CHANCHAL KUMARI TO SAFETY WHEN WE ATTACK?
I WILL
IN THE GUISE OF A MUGHAL CAVALIER, MANIKLAL RODE TOWARDS THEIR CAMP.
WELL, MANIKLAL. YOU ARE NOW MAQBUL KHAN— OUT TO MEET THE MUGHAL, MUBARAK KHAN PLAY YOUR ROLE WELL. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.
MEANWHILE, AT ROOPNAGAR—
WHY THESE ORNAMENTS, NIRMAL? BEFORE BEING LAID ON THE PYRE ONE IS USUALLY DECKED WITH FLOWERS.
I NEVER DREAMT THE RANA WOULD LET US DOWN LIKE THIS, CHANCHAL.

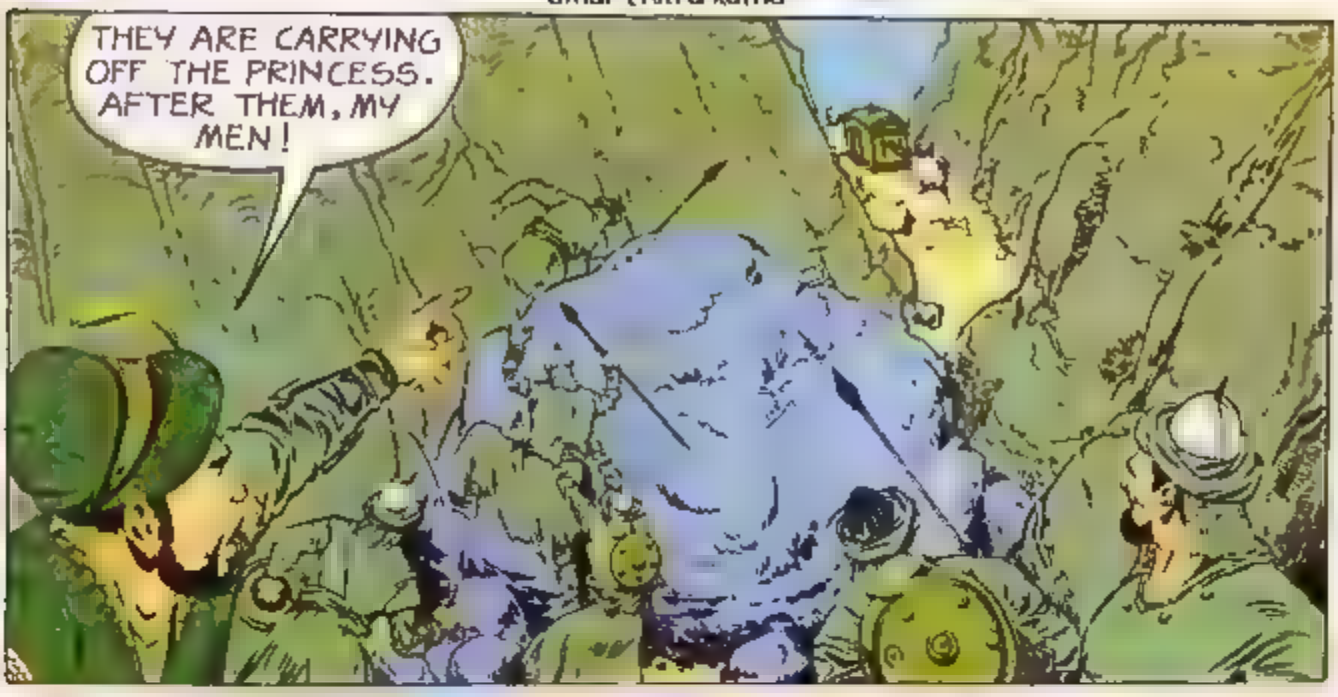

IF HE DOES NOT COME TO MY RESCUE, I WILL KILL MYSELF BEFORE ENTERING DELHI. THE LOCKET IN THIS NECKLACE CONTAINS POISON.
CHANCHAL! NO! YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

DON'T CRY, NIRMAL. IF CRYING HELPED, I WOULD HAVE FLOODED ROOPNAGAR WITH MY TEARS.

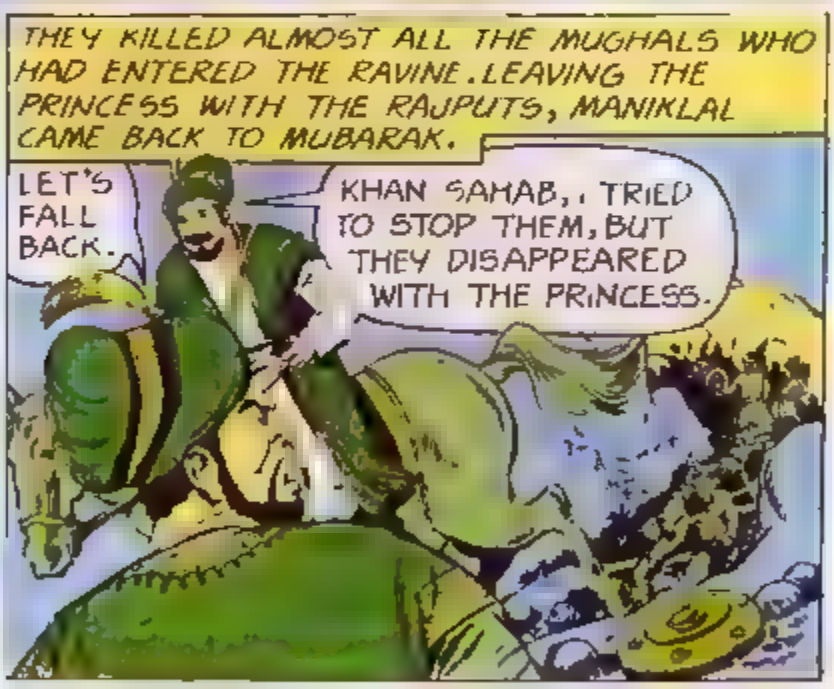

A LITTLE LATER, CHANCHAL PARTED WITH HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
WE ARE HAPPY FOR YOU, MY DAUGHTER. BUT WE'LL MISS YOU.
THEY WON'T SEND ME WITH HER. BUT I'LL MEET HER SOMEHOW.

AS THE PALANQUIN WITH THE PRINCESS LEFT THE PALACE, MUBARAK TURNED TO MANIKLAL, NOW DISGUISED AS A MUGHAL.
MAQBUL, YOU RIDE ALONGSIDE THE PALANQUIN
THANK GOD, HE COULDN'T SEE THROUGH MY DISGUISE!


THE PROCESSION MOVED ALONG THE ROAD TO DELHI. AS IT NEARED THE HILL ON WHICH THE RANA AND HIS MEN WAITED —
IT'S AN AMBUSH!
BANDITS!
RUN! RUN!
IN THE CHAOS THAT FOLLOWED, MANIKLAL SLIPPED AWAY WITH CHANCHAL, TOWARDS A NARROW RAVINE BETWEEN THE HILLS.
QUICK! FOLLOW ME. I'LL LEAD YOU TO SAFETY.
AS SOON AS MANIKLAL AND THE PALANQUIN ENTERED THE RAVINE, A HUGE ROCK FELLED BY THE RANA'S MEN, BLOCKED THE PATH. MUBARAK BECAME SUSPICIOUS.
THE PRINCESS! IT'S THE PRINCESS THEY WERE AFTER!

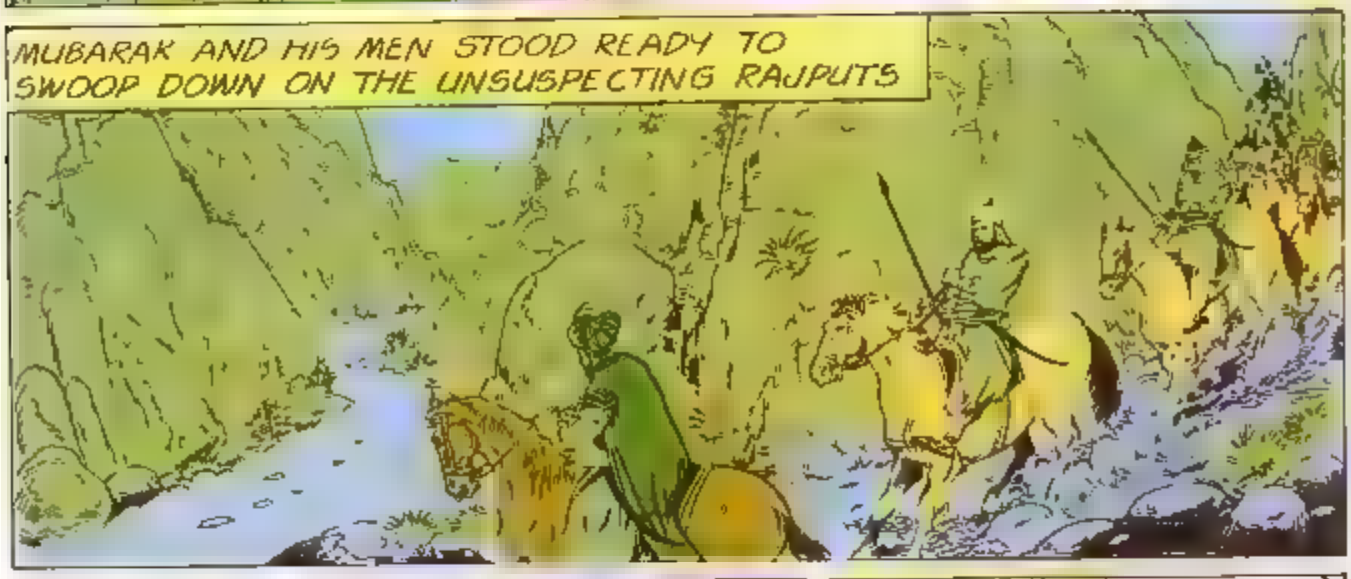

THEY ARE CARRYING OFF THE PRINCESS. AFTER THEM, MY MEN!

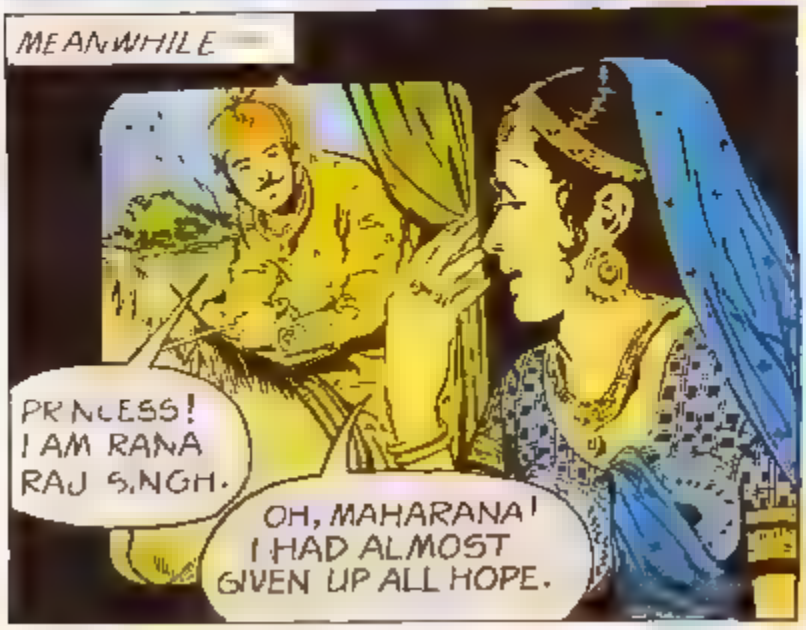
SUDDENLY, AS SOME HUNDRED SOLDIERS ENTERED THE RAVINE, RAJ SINGH AND HIS MEN CAME CHARGING DOWN THE HILL


THEY KILLED ALMOST ALL THE MUGHALS WHO HAD ENTERED THE RAVINE. LEAVING THE PRINCESS WITH THE RAJPUTS, MANIKLAL CAME BACK TO MUBARAK.
LET'S FALL BACK.
KHAN SAHAB, I TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT THEY DISAPPEARED WITH THE PRINCESS.

THEY ARE DOWN HERE. NOW WE'LL CLIMB THE HILL AND USE THEIR STRATEGY.
I MUST SLIP OUT AND SOME-HOW BRING HELP FOR THE RANA.

MUBARAK LED HIS MEN TO THE TOP OF THE HILL.
THEY ARE HEADING FOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RAVINE.
LET'S GO AHEAD OF THEM AND THEN CHARGE DOWN.


MUBARAK AND HIS MEN STOOD READY TO SWOOP DOWN ON THE UNSUSPECTING RAJPUTS


MEANWHILE
PRINCESS! I AM RANA RAJ SINGH.
OH, MAHARANA! I HAD ALMOST GIVEN UP ALL HOPE.

SUDDENLY
LOOK, RANA! THE MUGHALS!
THEY HAVE BEATEN ME AT MY OWN GAME.

IT'S EITHER DEATH OR DEFEAT. SINCE A RAJPUT NEVER ACCEPTS DEFEAT, DEATH IT SHALL BE!

YOU SHALL NOT DIE BECAUSE OF ME.

AND THE NEXT MOMENT CHANCHAL STOOD BEFORE MUBARAK.

WHO IS THE COMMANDER OF YOUR ARMY?

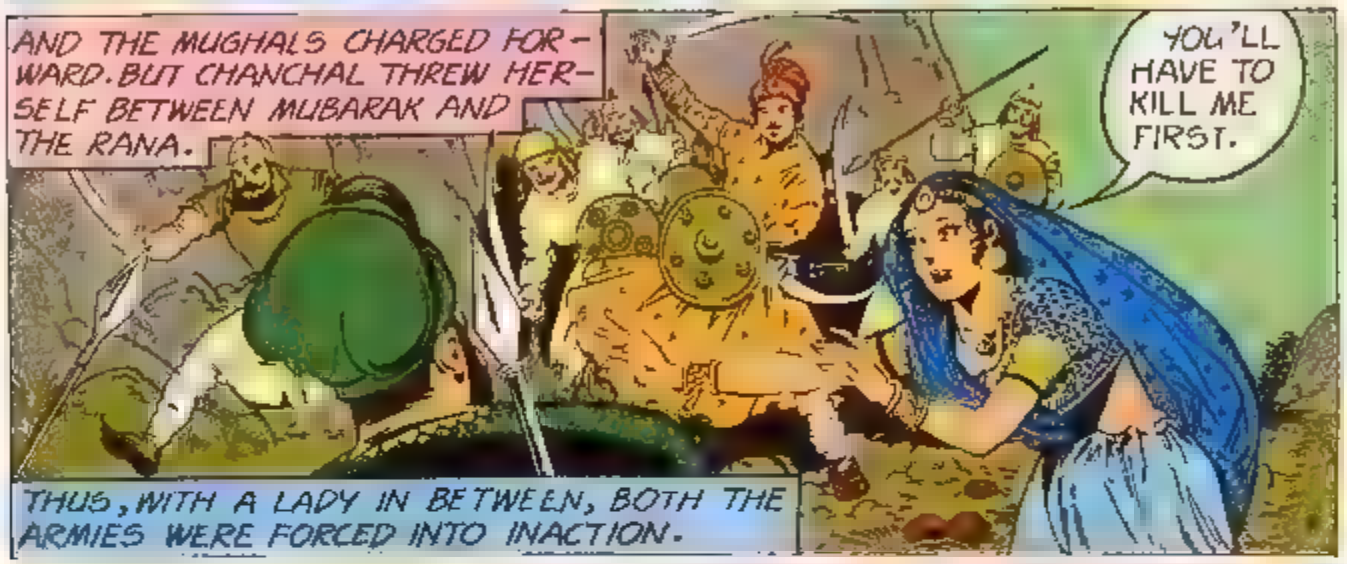
I AM, MY LADY! BUT WHO ARE YOU?

I AM THE PRINCESS OF ROOPNAGAR. I CANNOT LET YOU ATTACK THEM — A MERE FIFTY AGAINST YOUR TWO THOUSAND.

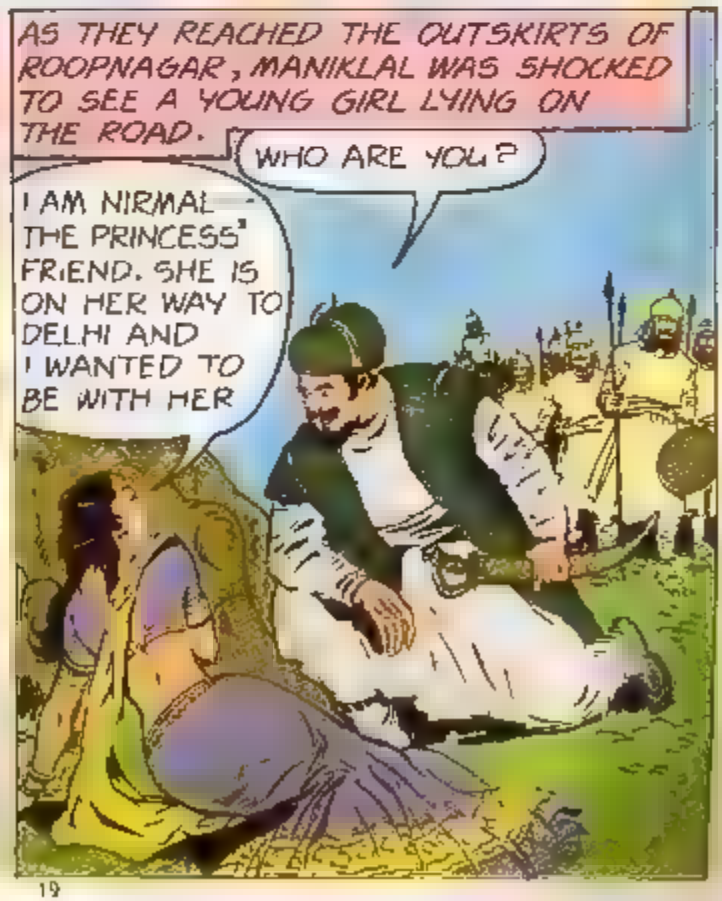
ONLY FIFTY OF THEM?

YES. THE RANA AND HIS VALIANT RAJPUTS. THEY CAME BECAUSE I APPEALED TO THEM.

I DID NOT WANT TO GO TO DELHI. BUT I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND.
YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR MIND TO SAVE THE RAJPUTS BUT IN VAIN

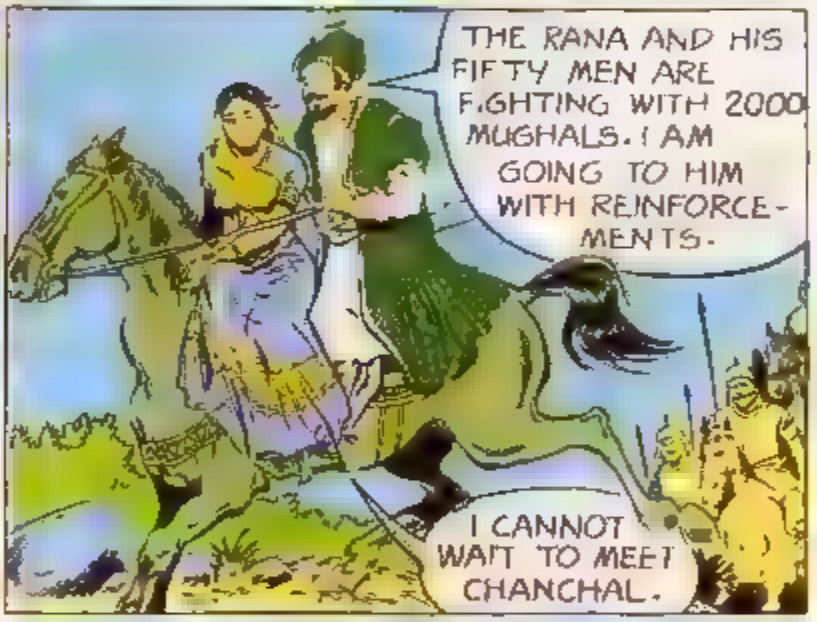

AND THE MUGHALS CHARGED FORWARD. BUT CHANCHAL THREW HERSELF BETWEEN MUBARAK AND THE RANA.
YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST.
THUS, WITH A LADY IN BETWEEN, BOTH THE ARMIES WERE FORCED INTO INACTION.

MEANWHILE, MANIKLAL HAD REACHED VIKRAM SINGH'S PALACE AT ROOPNAGAR.
MAHARAJ! WE WERE ATTACKED BY OVER 5000 BANDITS. THEY'VE TAKEN THE PRINCESS. WE NEED MEN TO RESCUE HER.
HAVE A THOUSAND CAVALRY READY. TAKE THEM.


AS THEY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROOPNAGAR, MANIKLAL WAS SHOCKED TO SEE A YOUNG GIRL LYING ON THE ROAD.
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM NIRMAL - THE PRINCESS' FRIEND. SHE IS ON HER WAY TO DELHI AND I WANTED TO BE WITH HER

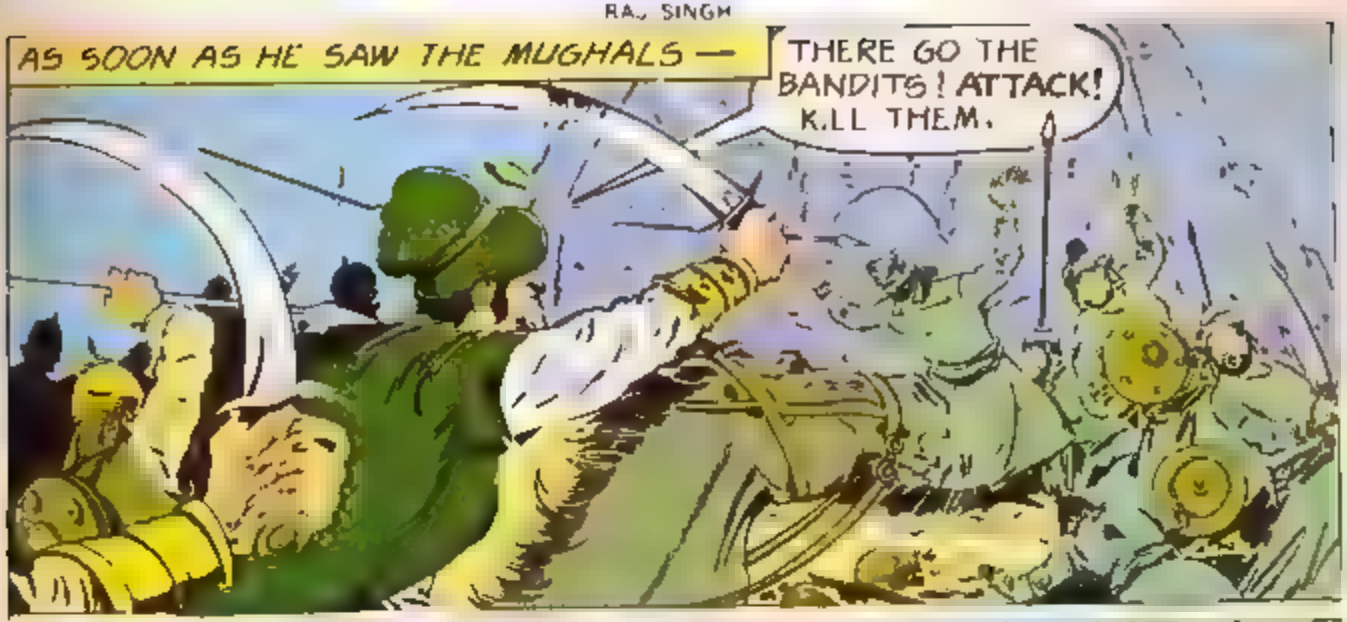
BUT I CANNOT WALK A STEP FURTHER. WHO ARE YOU?
I AM MANIKLAL, THE RANA'S MAN. YOUR PRINCESS IS WITH HIM.

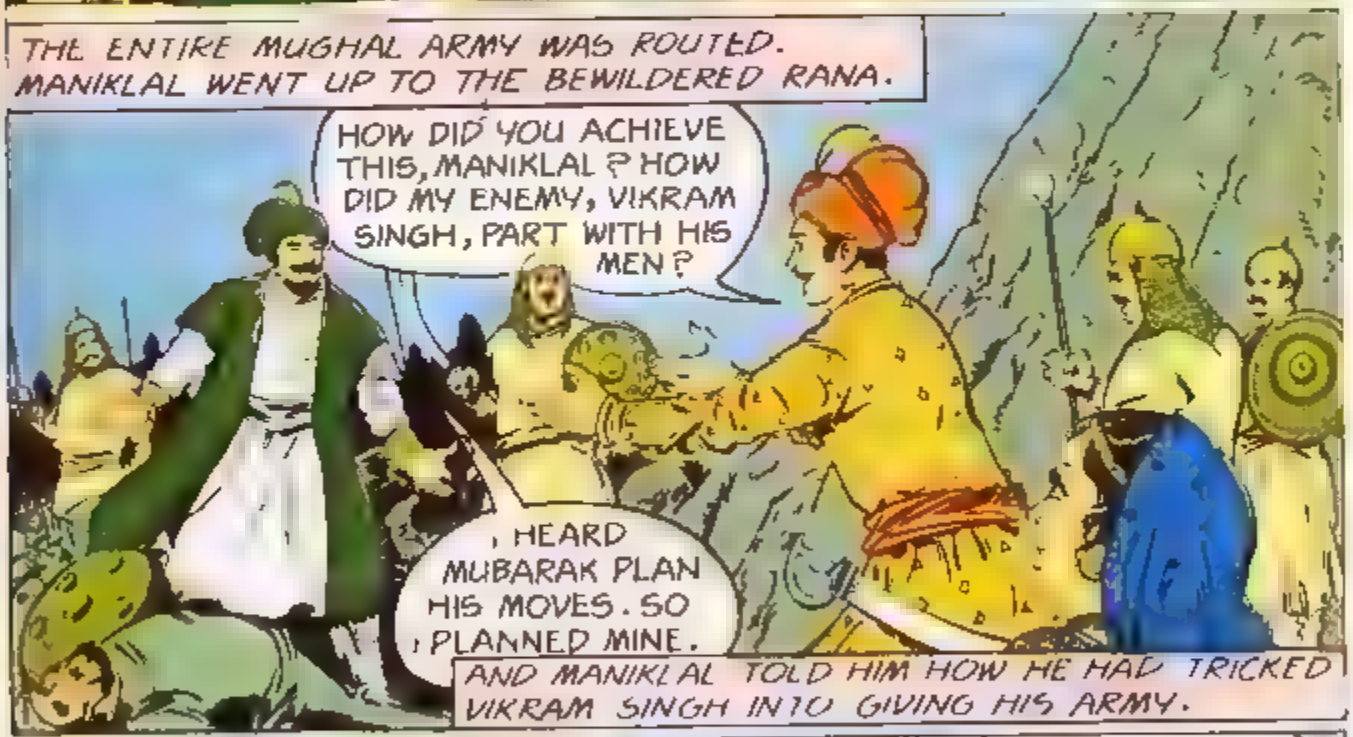
COME WITH ME. I'LL TAKE YOU TO HER.

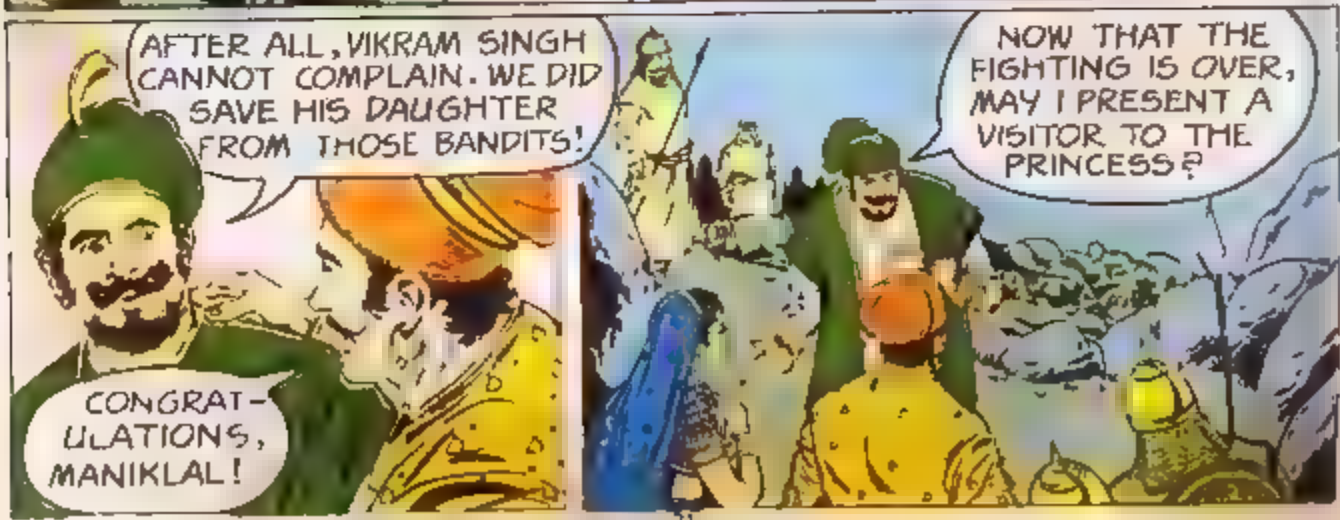

THE RANA AND HIS FIFTY MEN ARE FIGHTING WITH 2000 MUGHALS. I AM GOING TO HIM WITH REINFORCEMENTS.
I CANNOT WAIT TO MEET CHANCHAL.

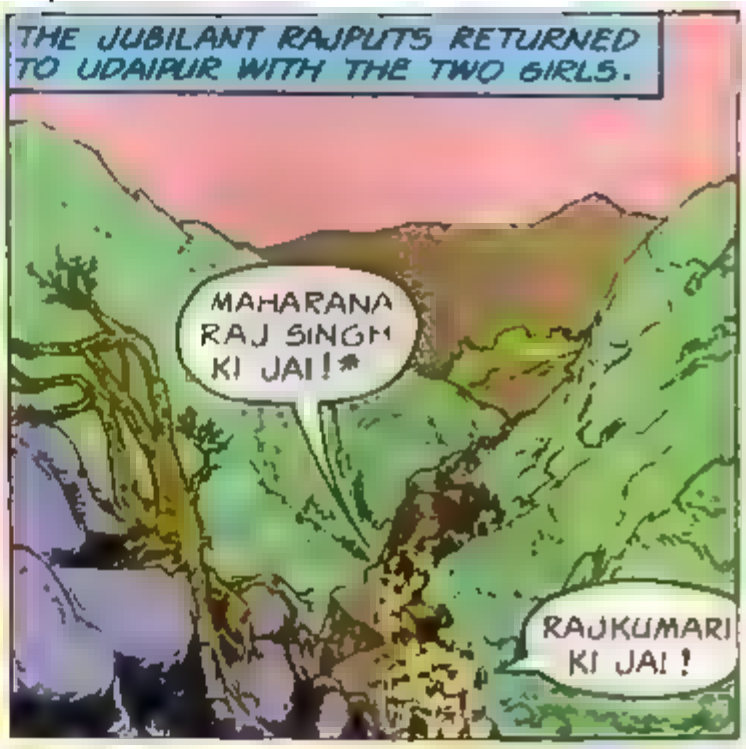
AS THEY NEARED THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE—
YOU WAIT HERE. I'LL JOIN YOU, IF I SURVIVE.

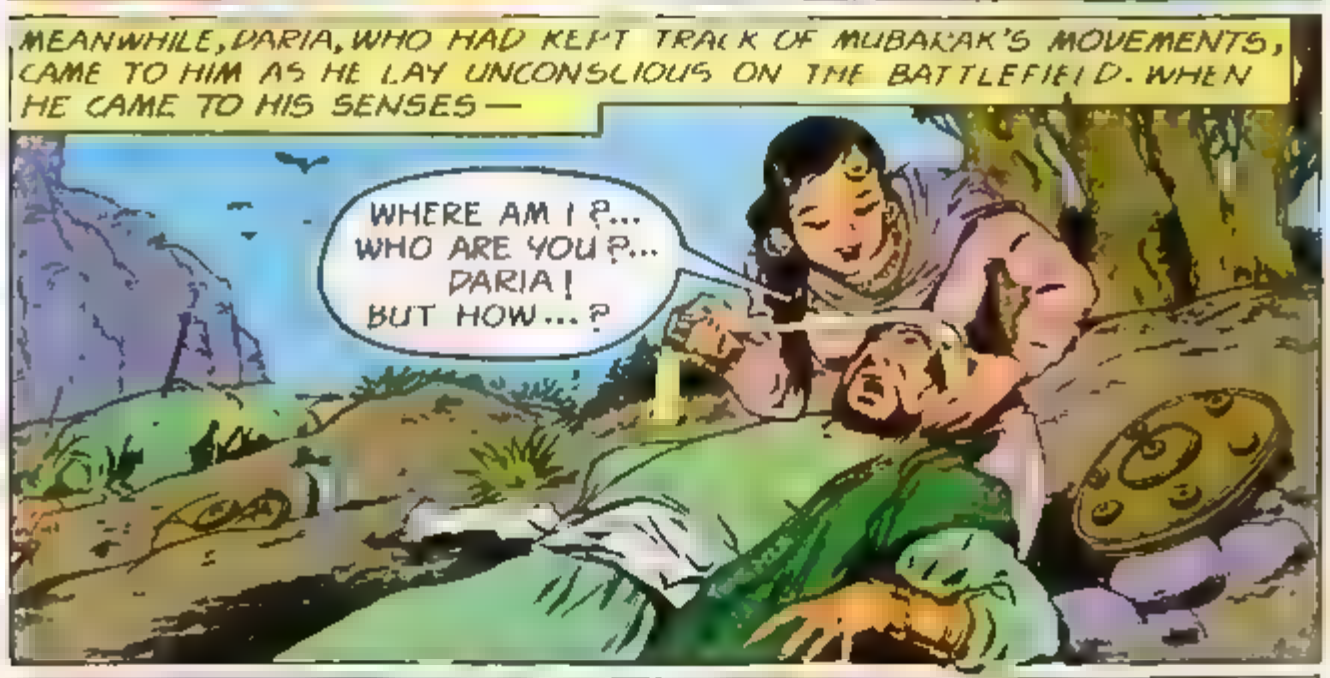
MANIKLAL GAVE ORDERS.
WE'LL GO ROUND THE HILLS, AND TAKE THEM IN REAR.


AS SOON AS HE SAW THE MUGHALS —
THERE GO THE BANDITS! ATTACK! KILL THEM.


THE ENTIRE MUGHAL ARMY WAS ROUTED. MANIKLAL WENT UP TO THE BEWILDERED RANA.
HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE THIS, MANIKLAL? HOW DID MY ENEMY, VIKRAM SINGH, PART WITH HIS MEN?
I HEARD MUBARAK PLAN HIS MOVES. SO I PLANNED MINE.
AND MANIKLAL TOLD HIM HOW HE HAD TRICKED VIKRAM SINGH INTO GIVING HIS ARMY.


AFTER ALL, VIKRAM SINGH CANNOT COMPLAIN. WE DID SAVE HIS DAUGHTER FROM THOSE BANDITS!
CONGRATULATIONS, MANIKLAL!
NOW THAT THE FIGHTING IS OVER, MAY I PRESENT A VISITOR TO THE PRINCESS?





* VICTORY TO MAHARANA RAJ SINGH

A FEW DAYS LATER, MUBARAK WENT BACK TO DELHI WITH DARIA. ZEB-UN-NISA GOT THE NEWS FROM ONE OF HER INFORMERS.

SHAHZADI, MUBARAK IS REUNITED WITH DARIA.

HOW DARE HE!

DRIVEN BY JEALOUSY, ZEB UN-NISA PLANNED TO KILL MUBARAK.

FATHER! HOW CAN YOU CONDONE MUBARAK'S FAILURE TO BRING THE PRINCESS HERE!

I HAVE ORDERED RAJ SINGH TO RETURN THE PRINCESS.

A MESSENGER FROM UDAIPUR IS HERE.

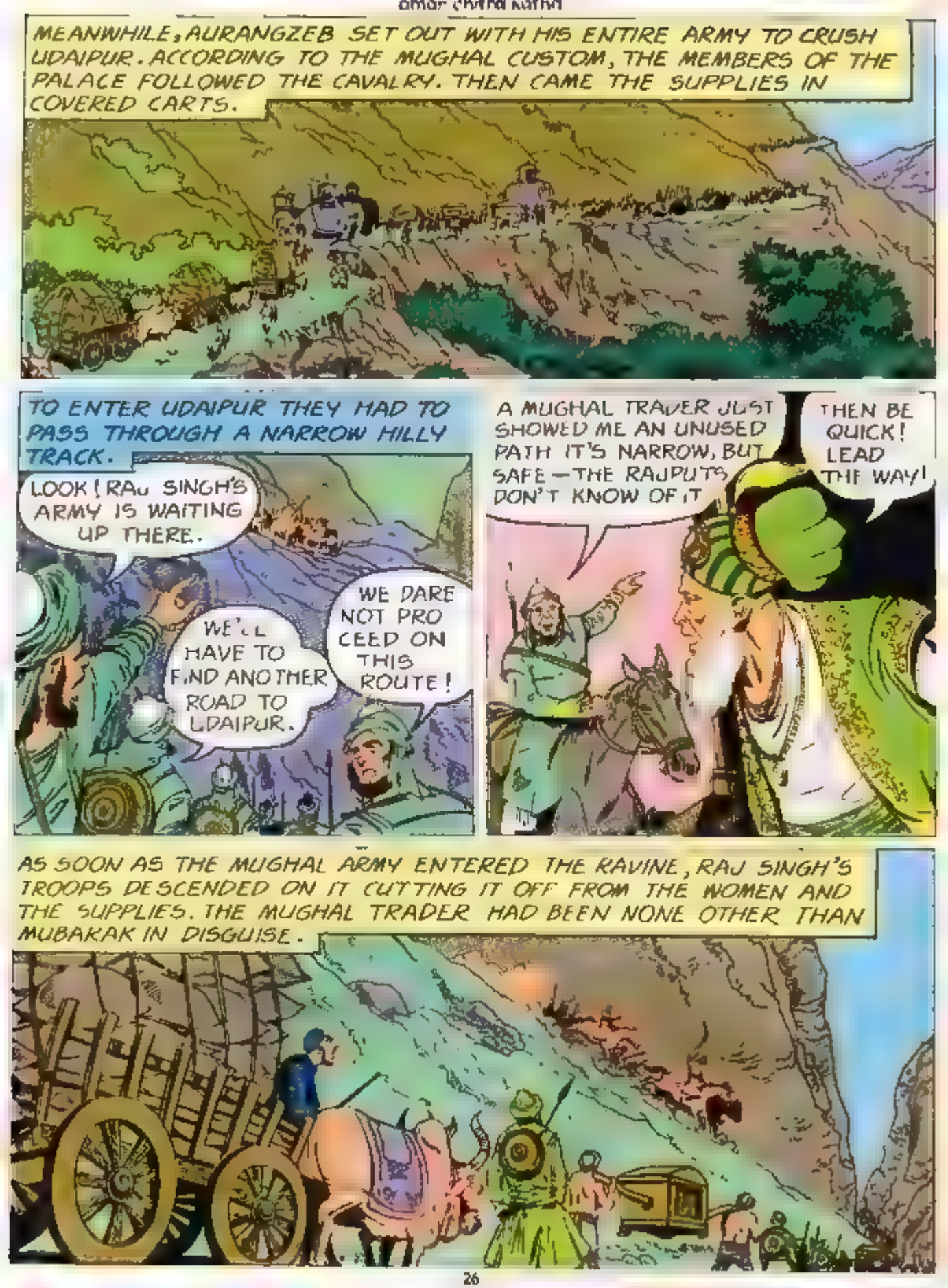
SEND HIM IN.

I AM MANIKLAL. THE RANA SAYS THAT HE WILL NOT RETURN THE PRINCESS.

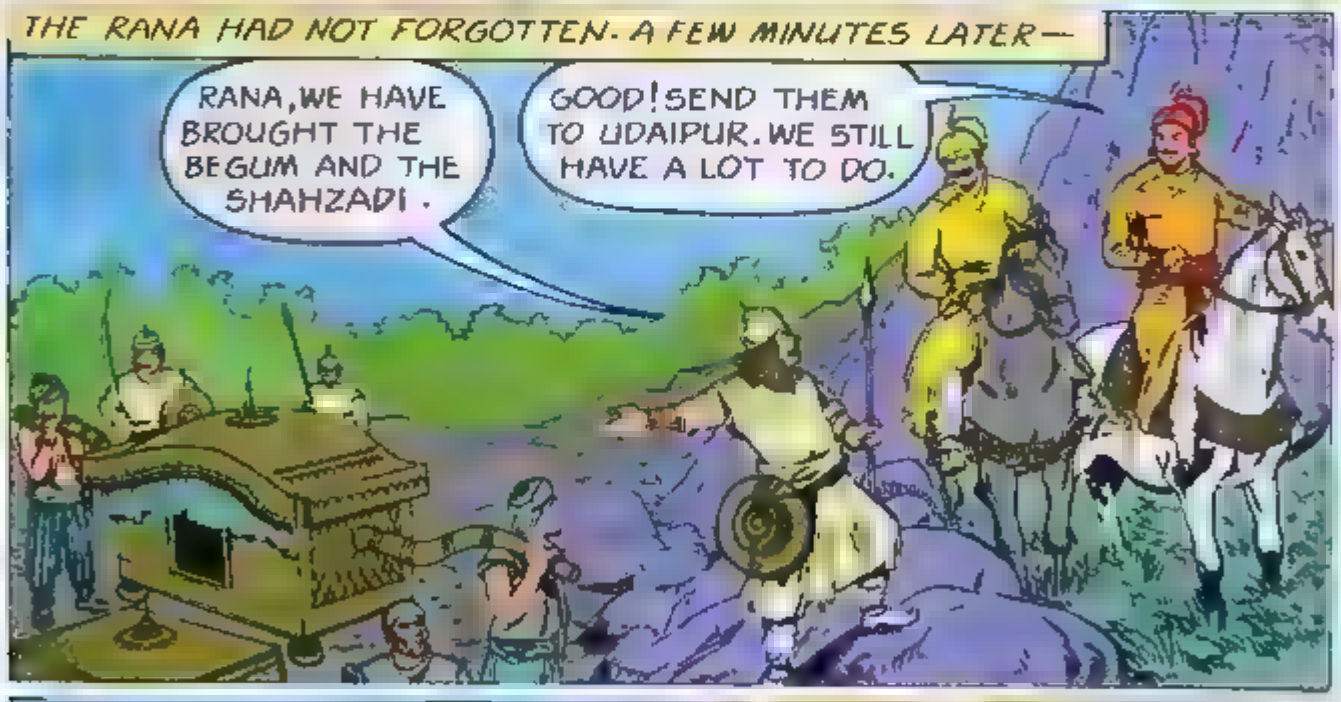
THE SCOUNDREL! HOW DARE HE FLOUT MY ORDERS!

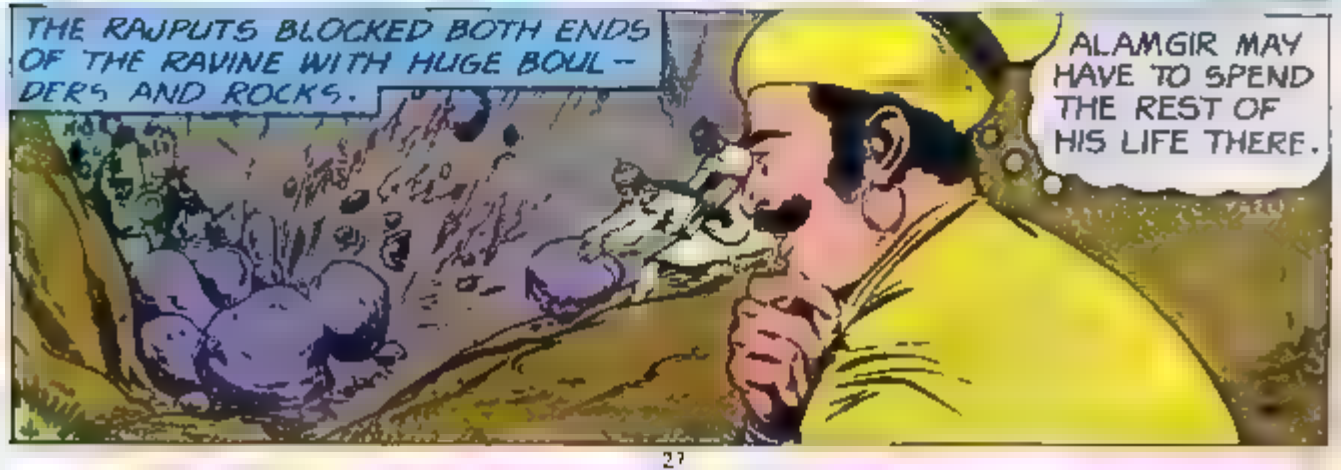
I'LL CRUSH THAT IMPUDENT FOOL AND HIS RACE.
AND MUBARAK?
HE TOO SHALL DIE!
THAT EVENING ZEB-UN-NISA GAVE ORDERS THAT MUBARAK SHOULD DIE OF SNAKE BITE.
BUT THE NEXT DAY —
I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND. I WANT HIM ALIVE.
IT'S TOO LATE...
..I HAVE JUST BURIED HIM.
MAH ALLAH! WHY WERE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
DIG UP THE BODY AND FETCH THE HAKIM. HE HAS THE ANTIDOTE.
MEANWHILE —
LOOK! SOMEONE IS COMING THIS WAY. QUICK! LET'S RUN AWAY.
IT WAS MANIKLAL ON HIS WAY TO UDAIPUR.

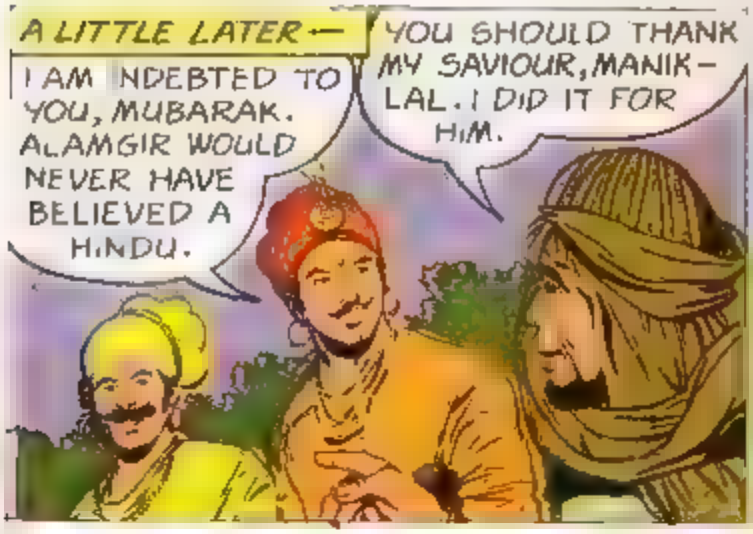
MANIKLAL CAME NEAR THE GRAVE AND UNCOVERED THE FACE OF THE CORPSE.
OH, IT IS MUBARAK! HE HAS BEEN BITTEN BY A SNAKE. LUCKILY I HAVE THE ANTIDOTE WITH ME.
A FEW HOURS LATER MUBARAK OPENED HIS EYES.
WHO ARE...! THINK I KNOW YOU. AREN'T YOU THE RANA'S MAN?
YES, I AM. BUT HOW DID YOU GET BITTEN?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER, MY FRIEND! NOW, TAKE ME WITH YOU. I CANNOT GO BACK TO DELHI.
AT UDAIPUR, MANIKLAL DID NOT TELL THE RANA ANYTHING ABOUT HIS ENCOUNTER WITH MUBARAK. INSTEAD—
THE EMPEROR HAS THREATENED TO ATTACK HE IS BENT ON TAKING THE PRINCESS TO DELHI.
HER FATHER HAS WRITTEN THAT TO SAVE HIM AND ALL THE RAJPUTS FROM AURANGZEB'S WRATH, I SHOULD RETURN CHANCHAL.
BUT HOW CAN I? SHE HAS SOUGHT MY PROTECTION. BESIDES...
...I DON'T WANT TO RETURN HER. I WANT TO MARRY HER.

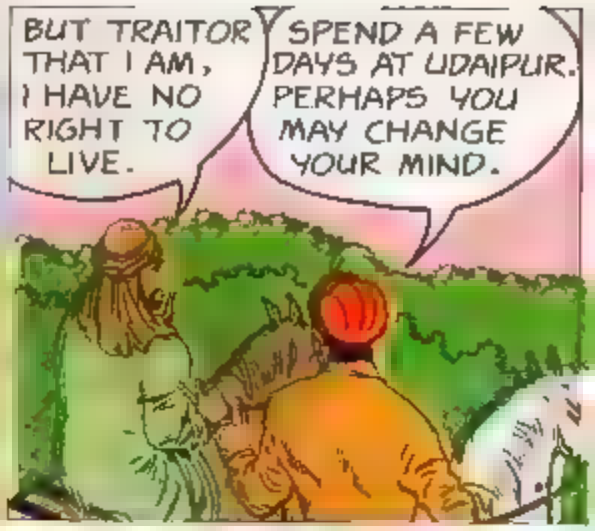

MEANWHILE, AURANGZEB SET OUT WITH HIS ENTIRE ARMY TO CRUSH UDAIPUR. ACCORDING TO THE MUGHAL CUSTOM, THE MEMBERS OF THE PALACE FOLLOWED THE CAVALRY. THEN CAME THE SUPPLIES IN COVERED CARTS.
TO ENTER UDAIPUR THEY HAD TO PASS THROUGH A NARROW HILLY TRACK.
LOOK! RAJ SINGH'S ARMY IS WAITING UP THERE.
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER ROAD TO UDAIPUR.
WE DARE NOT PROCEED ON THIS ROUTE!
A MUGHAL TRADER JUST SHOWED ME AN UNUSED PATH. IT'S NARROW, BUT SAFE — THE RAJPUTS DON'T KNOW OF IT.
THEN BE QUICK! LEAD THE WAY!
AS SOON AS THE MUGHAL ARMY ENTERED THE RAVINE, RAJ SINGH'S TROOPS DESCENDED ON IT CUTTING IT OFF FROM THE WOMEN AND THE SUPPLIES. THE MUGHAL TRADER HAD BEEN NONE OTHER THAN MUBARAK IN DISGUISE.

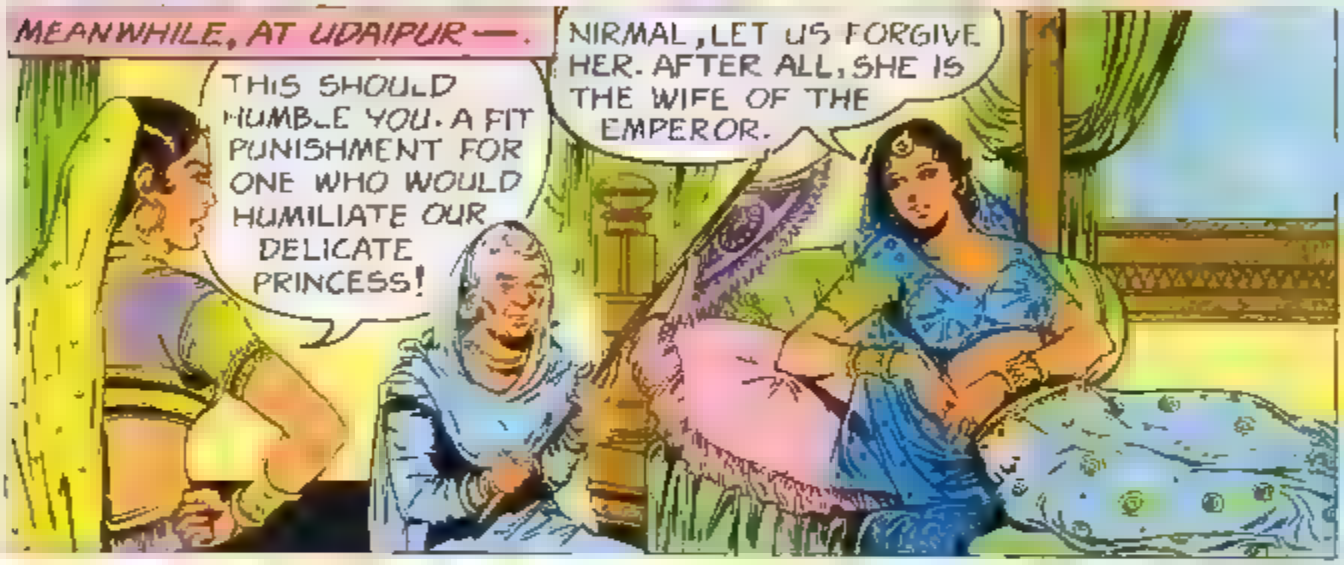
SEIZE ALL THE SUPPLIES.
AND DON'T FORGET THE GIRLS' REQUEST, MAHARANA! UDIPURI AND ZEB-UN-NISA ARE TO BE SENT TO THEM

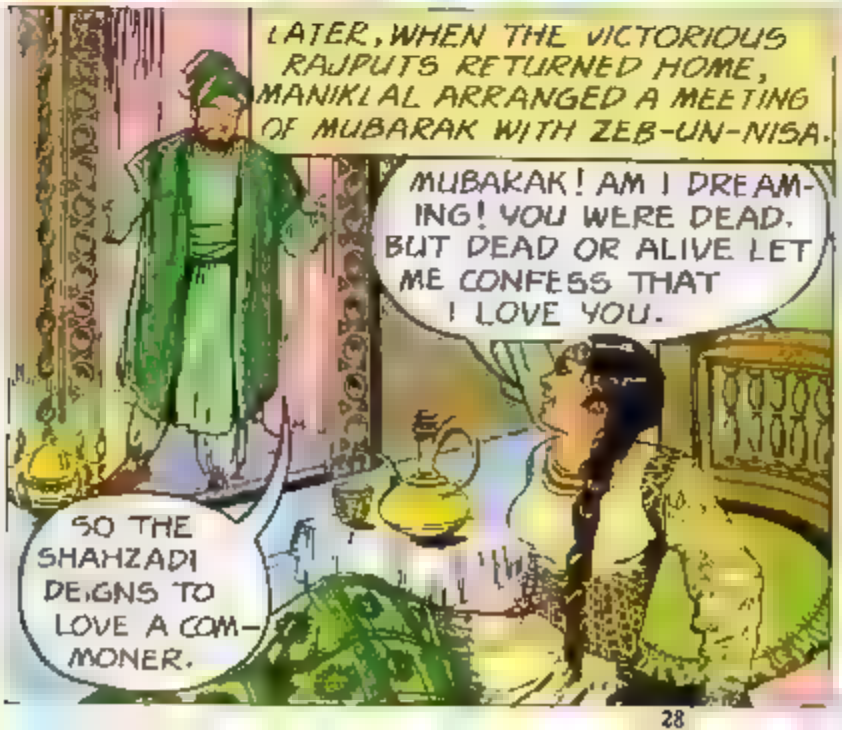

THE RANA HAD NOT FORGOTTEN. A FEW MINUTES LATER—
RANA, WE HAVE BROUGHT THE BEGUM AND THE SHAHZADI.
GOOD! SEND THEM TO UDAIPUR. WE STILL HAVE A LOT TO DO.


THE RAJPUTS BLOCKED BOTH ENDS OF THE RAVINE WITH HUGE BOULDERS AND ROCKS.
ALAMGIR MAY HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE THERE.


A LITTLE LATER —
I AM INDEBTED TO YOU, MUBARAK. ALAMGIR WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED A HINDU.
YOU SHOULD THANK MY SAVIOUR, MANIK-LAL. I DID IT FOR HIM.


BUT TRAITOR THAT I AM, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIVE.
SPEND A FEW DAYS AT UDAIPUR. PERHAPS YOU MAY CHANGE YOUR MIND.


MEANWHILE, AT UDAIPUR —
THIS SHOULD HUMBLE YOU. A FIT PUNISHMENT FOR ONE WHO WOULD HUMILIATE OUR DELICATE PRINCESS!
NIRMAL, LET US FORGIVE HER. AFTER ALL, SHE IS THE WIFE OF THE EMPEROR.


LATER, WHEN THE VICTORIOUS RAJPUTS RETURNED HOME, MANIKLAL ARRANGED A MEETING OF MUBARAK WITH ZEB-UN-NISA.
MUBARAK! AM I DREAMING! YOU WERE DEAD. BUT DEAD OR ALIVE LET ME CONFESS THAT I LOVE YOU.
SO THE SHAHZADI DEIGNS TO LOVE A COMMONER.

BUT I STILL LOVE YOU, ZEB — IN SPITE OF ALL YOU DID.

THE NEXT DAY —

MAHARANA, IF YOU WANT TO REWARD MUBARAK, GIVE HIM ZEB-UN-NISA.

I CANNOT COMPEL A WOMAN TO MARRY ANYONE. NOT EVEN IF SHE IS MY PRISONER.

THEY WERE MARRIED LAST NIGHT. THEY LOVE EACH OTHER. SO THE QUESTION OF COMPULSION DOESN'T ARISE.

THE EMPEROR IS SURE TO ASK FOR A TRUCE. LET US AGREE ONLY IF HE RECOGNISES THIS MARRIAGE.

A GOOD IDEA! IN FACT I'VE JUST RECEIVED HIS REQUEST THROUGH A CARRIER PIGEON.

TWO DAYS LATER —

UDIPURI, ZEB AND MUBARAK HAVE GONE BACK TO DELHI. I CONCLUDED A TRUCE WITH THE EMPEROR AND SET HIM FREE.

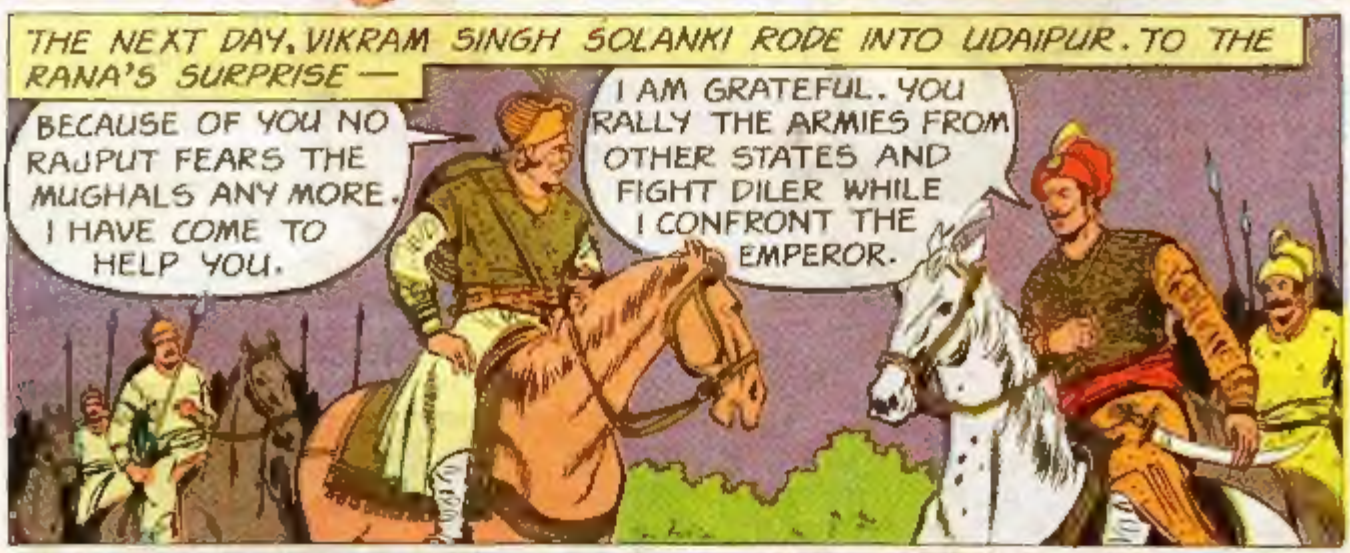
AT LAST THERE WILL BE PEACE.

BUT THE PEACE DID NOT LAST LONG. ONE DAY —

THE EMPEROR HAS DECIDED NOT TO HONOUR THE TREATY. HE HAS SENT HIS GENERAL DILER KHAN TO ATTACK US.

WE WILL GIVE A FITTING REPLY. BUT FIRST WE MUST WIN THE OTHER RAJPUT KINGS OVER TO OUR SIDE.

A FEW DAYS LATER—
I AM PUZZLED BY VIKRAM SINGH'S REPLY. HE SAYS, HE WILL BE COMING WITH HIS ARMY. NOT A WORD MORE!
PERHAPS HE IS COMING FOR HIS DAUGHTER.


THE NEXT DAY, VIKRAM SINGH SOLANKI RODE INTO UDAIPUR. TO THE RANA'S SURPRISE—
BECAUSE OF YOU NO RAJPUT FEARS THE MUGHALS ANY MORE. I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU.
I AM GRATEFUL. YOU RALLY THE ARMIES FROM OTHER STATES AND FIGHT DILER WHILE I CONFRONT THE EMPEROR.

THE COMBINED RAJPUT FORCES LED BY MANIKLAL AND VIKRAM SINGH DEFEATED DILER IN AN OPEN ENCOUNTER. MANIKLAL MET MUBARAK AGAIN.
MUBARAK! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I AM DYING, MY FRIEND. THIS TIME YOU CANNOT SAVE ME.

DARIA... MY FIRST WIFE... SHE SHOT ME... STABBED HERSELF... POOR DARIA... I DECEIVED HER.
I'M SORRY, MUBARAK. MAY GOD PROTECT YOU.
THAT EVENING AT THE RANA'S PALACE —
NOW THAT DILER IS DEFEATED AND THE EMPEROR SUBDUED, WE HAVE SOME IMPORTANT WORK TO FINISH.
IF YOU ARE WILLING, I'D BE HONOURED TO MAKE YOU MY SON-IN-LAW.
THE SAME NIGHT, RAJ SINGH MARRIED CHANCHAL.
WITH THE FIRE AS WITNESS, I OFFER MY DAUGHTER...
SO THE PRINCESS, CHANCHAL KUMARI'S DREAM CAME TRUE. HER OTHER DREAM TOO HAD BECOME A REALITY. AURANGZEB HAD BEEN DEFEATED BY RAJ SINGH. HE NEVER CAME BACK TO UDAIPUR AGAIN.

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